

**What is claimed is:**

1. A tape dispenser that is adapted to dispense trail tape and be mounted to a belt, said tape dispenser comprising:

a housing that defines an inner cavity having a tape spool defined therein for supporting a role of tape and a storage box defined at the top of said housing, said housing including at least one cutting edge for cutting the tape;

said housing adapted to open and close for loading and unloading of the role of tape onto and from said tape spool, to hold a portion of the distal, cut-end of the tape to prevent the portion from rolling backward into said housing, and to leave another portion of the tape extending from said housing for later cutting of the other portion.

2. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 1, wherein said housing includes a front wall, a rear wall, a pair of side walls, and a lower wall.

3. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said tape spool is formed integrally with a substantially central portion of the interior of said rear wall so as to extend into said inner cavity of said housing in cantilevered fashion.

4. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein each of said walls is substantially rectangular.

5. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 4, wherein said housing defines a box-like enclosure.

6. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 1, wherein said housing includes a plurality of guides disposed therewithin for guiding the tape from said tape spool to the exterior of said housing.

7. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 6, wherein said plurality of guides include a pair of guides formed integrally with opposed, corresponding corner portions of the interior of said housing proximate said storage box.

8. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said front wall is hingedly connected to said lower wall so as to completely open and close for loading and unloading of the role of tape onto and from said tape spool.

9. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 8, wherein said hinge includes a living hinge integrally molded with said front wall and said lower wall.

10. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said front wall has a plurality of tabs disposed thereon for securing said front wall in the closed position.

11. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of tabs include a pair of opposed tabs disposed on the substantially central portions of opposed, corresponding lateral edges of said front wall for securing said front wall to said side walls.

12. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said housing includes at least one belt loop for looping a belt through said belt loop.

13. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 12, wherein said belt loop is integrally formed with a substantially central portion of the exterior of said rear wall of said housing.

14. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 12, wherein said belt loop includes a molded tab having a downwardly extending distal end that is biased in the direction of said rear wall so as to act as a clip.

15. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein each of said side walls has at least one tab for holding the portion of the distal, cut-end of the tape to said side wall to prevent the portion from rolling backward into said housing.

16. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 15, wherein each of said side walls includes a plurality of slots each of which is defined between said side wall and a longitudinal end of each of said at least one tab, wherein the tape is weaved downwardly over said side wall, through one of said plurality of slots, under said at least one tab, through another of said plurality of slots, and over said side wall for holding the portion of the distal, cut-end of the tape.

17. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein the corner joining each of said side walls to said lower wall is serrated for cutting the tape.

18. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 1, wherein said storage box includes a storage compartment and a hinged lid that is adapted to open opposite said housing.

19. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said lower wall is substantially hemispherical.

20. A tape dispenser as set forth in claim 2, wherein said housing includes a hinge that bisects said front wall to define a lower front wall and an upper front wall, said lower front wall adapted to hingedly move about the axis defined by said hinge between an open position wherein access is provided to said inner cavity of said housing and a closed position wherein access to said inner cavity is prevented, said upper front wall adapted to hingedly move about the axis defined by said hinge between an open position wherein access is provided to said storage box and a closed position wherein access to said storage box is prevented.

21. A tape dispenser as set forth in claim 20, wherein said hinge includes a living hinge integrally molded with said front wall.

22. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said pair of side walls and lower wall have an integral lip disposed substantially thereabout and said front wall has a flange disposed substantially thereabout and adapted for engagement with said lip for securing said front wall in the closed position.

23. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 12, wherein said at least one belt loop includes a pair of opposed, spaced belt loops.

24. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 23, wherein said pair of belt loops are integrally formed with a substantially central portion of the exterior of said rear wall of said housing.

25. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said lower wall includes a flexible opening for holding the portion of the distal, cut-end of the tape to said lower wall to prevent the portion from rolling backward into said housing.

26. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein each of said pair of side walls includes a cutting edge for cutting the tape.

27. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 26, wherein said cutting edge includes a molded tab having a proximate piece extending outwardly from said side wall and a distal piece extending rearwardly from the end of said proximate piece opposite said side wall.

28. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein said housing includes a plurality of slots disposed completely therethrough for allowing visual inspection of the role of tape supported on said tape spool.

29. A tape dispenser as recited in claim 28, wherein said front wall includes said plurality of slots.